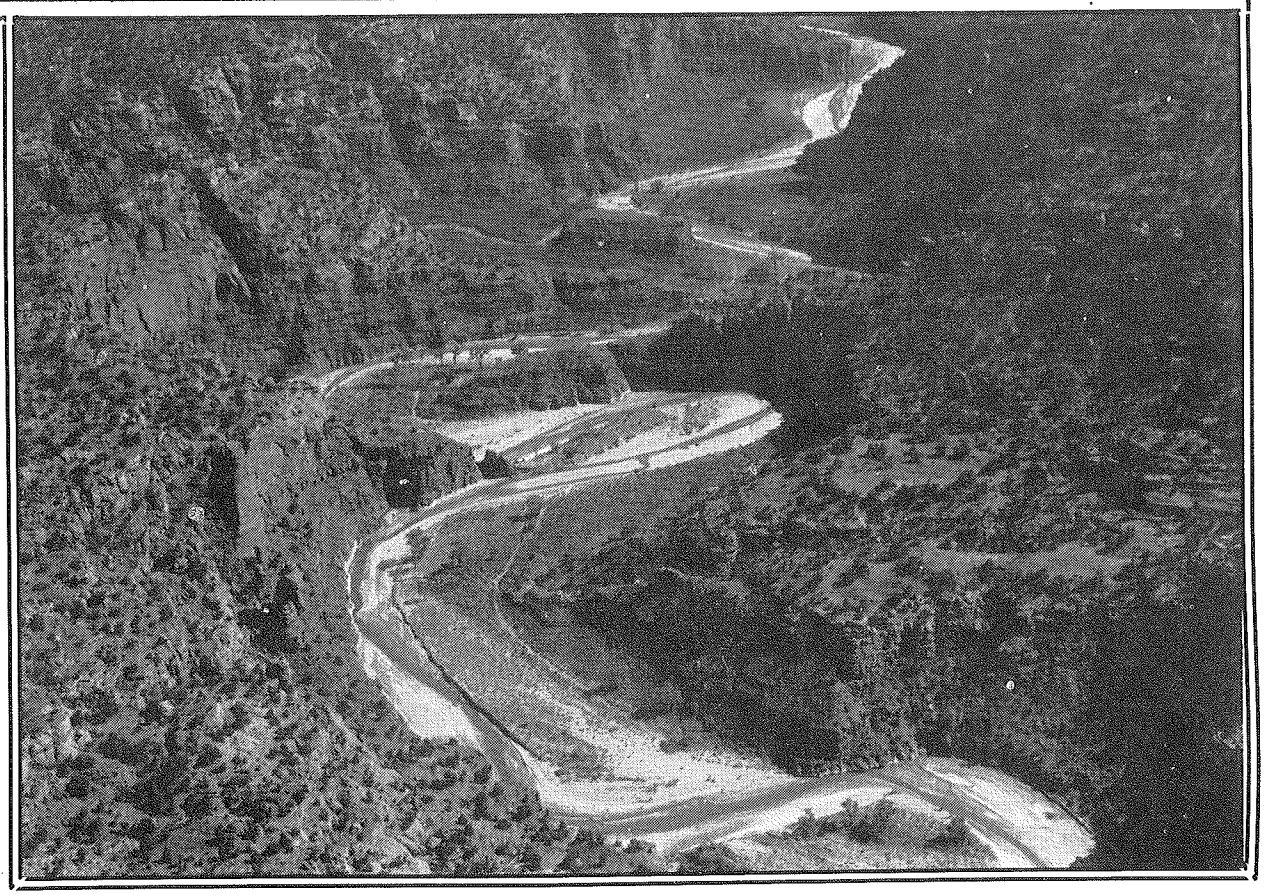
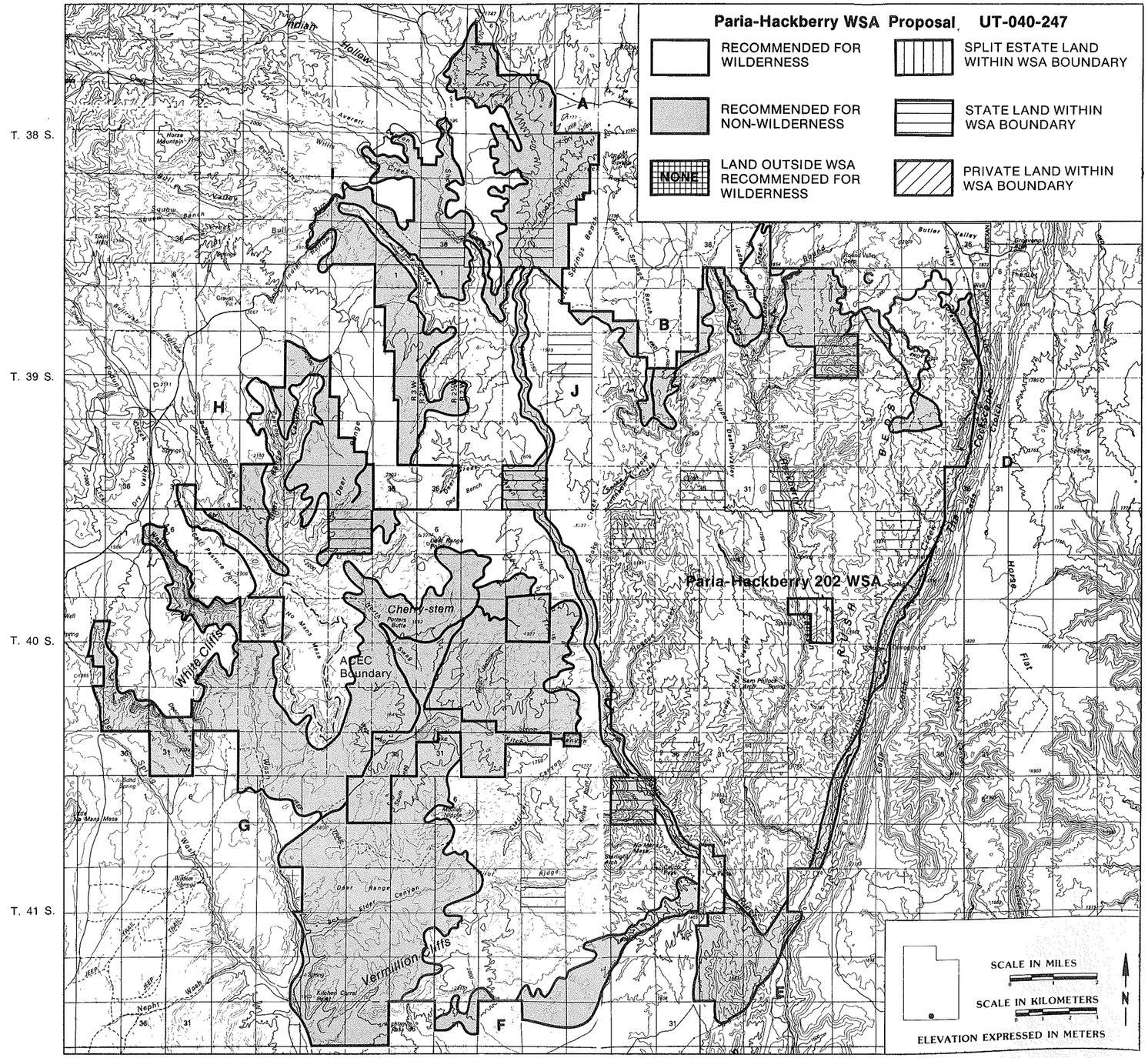
# Paria-Hackberry WSA



# PARIA-HACKBERRY / PARIA-HACKBERRY 202 WSA




October 1991

## PARIA-HACKBERRY/PARIA-HACKBERRY 202 WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA: 136,222 acres

The Paria-Hackberry/Paria-Hackberry 202 Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-040-247/ UT-040-247A) is in central Kane County, 30 miles east of Kanab, Utah (population 2,148). The study area includes 136,222 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (see Map). Inheld within the boundaries of the WSA are fourteen sections (9,019 acres) of State land, and 40 acres of private land (see Table 1).

A 400-acre parcel of State land in the eastern portion of the WSA was reconveyed to the Federal government with the State retaining mineral ownership. This split-estate land was analyzed under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) as UT-040-247A and is included as part of the Paria-Hackberry/Paria-Hackberry 202 WSA. Five State sections and 4 parcels of private land are excluded from the WSA by a cherrystem that includes a road which provides access to those lands.

**TABLE 1**
**LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA[a]**

| | ACRES |
|---|---|
| **WITHIN THE WSA** | |
| BLM (surface and subsurface) | 135,822 |
| Split-Estate (BLM surface only)[b] | 400 |
| In-holdings (State, Private) | 9,059 |
| Total | 145,281 |
| **WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY** | |
| BLM (within the WSA) | 95,042 |
| BLM (outside the WSA) | 0 |
| Split-Estate (within the WSA) | 400 |
| Split-Estate (outside the WSA) | 0 |
| Total BLM land recommended for wilderness | 95,442 |
| In-holdings (State, private) | 5,120 |
| **WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS** | |
| BLM | 41,180 |
| Split-Estate | 0 |
| Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness | 41,180 |
| In-holdings (State, Private) | 3,939 |

Source: BLM File Data

[a] The Appendix is a detailed table of in-holdings and/or split-estate tracts included within the portion of the WSA recommended for designation.

[b] In this report, split-estate lands are defined as only those lands with Federal surface and non-Federal subsurface (minerals). Lands that have Federal minerals but non-Federal surface are classified according to the owner of the surface.

Eight sections of State land (5,120 acres) and the 400 acres of split-estate land are within the portion of the WSA that is recommended for wilderness.

West of the WSA and separated by a County road is the Wahweap WSA (UT-040-248). The WSA also is contiguous with The Cockscomb WSA (UT-040-175) on the southeast. The eastern boundary of the WSA is defined by the county road along Cottonwood Creek and The Cockscomb. Other boundaries are determined by many factors including the mixed presence of roads, utility lines, and private and State lands. Portions of the study area boundary avoid areas with chainings and other surface disturbances that would not meet the wilderness inventory standards for naturalness.

The study area includes much of the Paria River and Hackberry Creek drainages between U.S. Highway 89 on the south and Cannonville on the north. Elevation ranges from 4,700 feet on the Paria River at the south end of the WSA to 7,200 feet in the west-central and the northern part of the study area. The varied terrain includes plateaus, benches, a portion of The Cockscomb ridge, scattered sand dunes, rock knobs and domes, and natural arches. The predominant vegetation type is pinyon-juniper woodland.

The WSA was studied under Sections 202 and 603 of FLPMA and was included in the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) finalized in November 1990. Four alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: a partial wilderness alternative where 95,042 acres would be designated as wilderness and the remaining 41,180 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness, which is the recommendation in this report; a no wilderness (no action) alternative; an all wilderness alternative; and a smaller partial wilderness alternative of 59,670 acres of public land.

2. Recommendation and Rationale
   95,042 acres
   (recommended for wilderness)
   41,180 acres
   (recommended for nonwilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate 95,042 acres of the WSA as wilderness, and to release the remaining 41,180 acres for uses other than wilderness. Designation of the entire area as wilderness is considered to be the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The alternative selected, however would be implemented in a manner which would utilize all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.

The recommendation would include eight sections (5,120 acres) of State lands and 400 acres of split-estate. It would also include 88 percent (83,730 acres) of the portion of the WSA with outstanding opportunities for solitude, 90 percent (85,530 acres) of the portion with outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, and 97 percent (95,042 acres) of the portion with exceptional scenic values. Other special features would be preserved, including the scientific values on No Man's Mesa. The boundary of the recommended area would essentially be a "reduced" version of the WSA in the western part (see Map), splitting the WSA into two parts to provide for a north-south transportation corridor (Areas A, J, and E) near the center of the WSA, and would retain most of the eastern part of the study area.

The portion of the WSA that would be released for uses other than wilderness includes areas with the most likelihood of conflicts with wilderness management. Current BLM land use plans provide for use of the nondesignated portion in a manner which would protect wilderness and other special values, while allowing nonwilderness uses. Those parts of the WSA with fewer wilderness values would be available for rangeland improvements (Areas A, B, C, G, H, and I), off-highway vehicle use (Area J), and mineral and energy exploration and development (Areas F and G). Potential routes for future transportation of coal through the region have been identified in at least two studies of coal development in the Kaiparowits Plateau and these routes would include Areas D, E, and J, and A of the WSA. The recommended portion of the WSA excludes a strip of land area that could accommodate a corridor for coal transportation. Vehicular use along the dry bed of the Paria River

in Areas A and J also could continue, where seasonal stream flows would remove signs of disturbance from the riverbed.

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

Wilderness Characteristics

A. Naturalness

Naturalness is defined as an attribute in which the evidence of man is substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and where minor imprints of man exhibit no cumulative impact that is substantially noticeable. Situated upstream from the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, the Paria-Hackberry WSA is the largest block of undisturbed lands on the Paria River drainage between U.S. Highway 89 and Bryce Canyon National Park. The naturalness attribute is of extremely high quality. Large size contributes to the remoteness of the WSA. Located at the eastern edge of the Grand Staircase, the naturalness character of the WSA is enhanced with high scenic values. More than 99 percent of the WSA is in a natural condition. Short drift fences, vehicular ways, log skid trails, corrals, cabins, sheds, a buried 0.75-mile long pipeline, and mining prospects affect the naturalness on a total area of less than 100 acres. These features have weathered or have been reclaimed so that they are substantially unnoticeable.

B. Solitude

Outstanding opportunities to find solitude exist on about 89,700 acres, or 66 percent of the WSA. Approximately 88 percent of the portion recommended for wilderness designation, 83,730 acres, have this quality. Most of these opportunities are due to screening by the terrain.

The White and Vermilion Cliffs are an irregular but continuous barrier that provides isolation. No Man's Mesa is an island-like landform that is completely isolated by the White Cliffs and provides exceptional opportunity for solitude. Many of the canyons provide opportunities for solitude, enhanced in some areas by vegetative screening. Benches provide solitude where sandstone exposures have eroded and formed domes, fins, and bare rock flats.

The remaining 46,522 acres (34 percent of the WSA) do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, particularly in open areas where sandstone is not exposed.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation can be found on approximately 90,100 acres, or 66 percent of the WSA. Approximately 87,400 acres have outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. Ninety percent, or 85,530 acres, of the recommended portion would provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

Primitive recreation activities with exceptional attributes include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, exploring, rock climbing, rockhounding for petrified wood and agate, and sightseeing for geology and photography.

Hiking, backpacking, and exploring opportunities are exceptional in the winding canyons and in rock outcrops which are scenic and dissected. Horseback riding is somewhat more limited because of rough terrain in some areas. Rock climbing is limited to cliff faces, but cliffs are common in the WSA and are in parts of the WSA which can be reached relatively easily on foot. Rockhounding areas are found below the Vermilion Cliffs and extend up the Paria River Canyon to Starlight Canyon.

D. Special Features

A relict plant association on top of No Man's Mesa has scientific value. Inasmuch as this community is undisturbed, it provides a "living museum" of pristine vegetation and standards with which to compare nearby plant communities affected by land management practices. No Man's Mesa has been designated by the BLM as a Research Natural Area for its scientific value.

All of the portion recommended for wilderness designation is of outstanding scenic quality. The Paria River marks the eastern edge of the Grand Staircase,

the southern edge of the High Plateaus of Utah Section of the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province. The Grand Staircase was so named by early geologists because it is an ascending series of colored cliffs and terraces. At Bull Valley Gorge and Deer Creek Canyon, in the northwestern part of the WSA, the eastern end of the White Cliffs of the Grand Staircase is 600 to 1,000 feet high and is cut by eight canyons. East of the Paria River, the same sandstone as in the White Cliffs is exposed but is more sculptured and dissected. A portion of the terrace of the Vermilion Cliffs, the "Grand Stair" below the White Cliffs, is in the southwestern portion of the WSA. Below the cliffs are multicolored badlands.

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to grow in the WSA. Five U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) candidate threatened or endangered plant species which may occur in the WSA are Psoralea epipsila, Psoralea pariensis, Penstemon ammophilum, Lesquerella tumulosa, and Xylorhiza cronquistii.

The endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon and the golden eagle, considered by the BLM to be a sensitive species, may occasionally visit the WSA. Other animal species that may inhabit the WSA include the FWS candidate ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, southern spotted owl, long-billed curlew, Arizona Bell's vireo, western snowy plover and white-faced ibis.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

A. Expanding the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of this WSA would not add a combination of potential natural vegetation (PNV) ecosystems not presently represented in Utah or in the NWPS. The PNV of the WSA, which would develop if the area remains undisturbed by human interference, is in the Colorado Plateau Province/Ecoregion and includes juniper-pinyon woodland (111,000 acres) and saltbush-greasewood (25,222 acres). Both types are well represented in other BLM WSAs. Juniper-pinyon woodland is also widely represented in WSAs outside of Utah, but would develop in only one designated wilderness in Utah. Saltbush-greasewood is represented in the NWPS in only one area, which is in Utah.

This information is summarized in Table 2 from data compiled in December 1989.

B. Assessing the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation within a Days Driving Time (5 Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is within a 5-hour drive of Las Vegas, Nevada. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated wilderness and other BLM study areas within a 5-hour drive of this population center.

**TABLE 2**
**ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION**

| | NWPS AREAS | | OTHER BLM STUDIES | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)** | **AREAS** | **ACRES** | **AREAS** | **ACRES** |
| **NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)** | | | | |
| Juniper-Pinyon Woodland | 11 | 1,401,745 | 84 | 2,033,005 |
| Saltbush-Greasewood | 1 | 20,000 | 17 | 368,781 |
| **UTAH (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)** | | | | |
| Juniper-Pinyon Woodland | 1 | 26,000 | 53 | 1,606,198 |
| Saltbush-Greasewood | 1 | 20,000 | 17 | 368,781 |

Source: BLM File Data.

TABLE 3
WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS

| | NWPS AREAS | | OTHER BLM STUDIES | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| POPULATION CENTERS | AREAS | ACRES | AREAS | ACRES |
| Las Vegas, Nevada | 38 | 3,132,130 | 54 | 2,040,276 |

Source: BLM File Data.

C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Paria-Hackberry WSA would not contribute significantly to balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas within the NWPS.

As of January, 1987, the NWPS included 64 wilderness areas comprising 2,834,115 acres in Utah and Arizona. Twelve designated wilderness areas are within 100 miles of the WSA. In a clockwise direction beginning to the northeast are the 26,000-acre Box-Death Hollow Wilderness (Forest Service [FS]), the 112,000-acre Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness (BLM), the 6,860-acre Cottonwood Point Wilderness (BLM), the 70,500-acre Kanab Creek Wilderness (FS and BLM units), the 40,600-acre Saddle Mountain Wilderness (FS), the 7,880-acre Mt. Trumbull Wilderness, (BLM), the 14,650-acre Mt. Logan Wilderness (BLM), the 18,630-acre Beaver Dam Mountains Wilderness (BLM), the 87,900-acre Paiute Wilderness (BLM), the 37,300-acre Grand Wash Cliffs Wilderness (BLM), the 7,000-acre Ashdown Gorge Wilderness (FS), and the 50,000-acre Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness (FS).

Manageability (The area must be capable of being effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.)

The entire WSA could be managed as wilderness. In the portion of the WSA that is recommended for wilderness designation closure to most surface-disturbing activities would preserve wilderness values, and projects designed to produce minimal impacts would enhance wildlife habitat by providing more water and vegetation. Elimination of off-road vehicle use would improve opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

There are 16,560 acres of post-FLPMA oil and gas leases in this part of the WSA, but these leases are subject to nonimpairment of wilderness values and it is expected that they will expire and not be renewed if the area is designated wilderness. There also are 80 acres of mining claims in this part of the WSA, but development of locatable minerals is not projected in the foreseeable future.

Livestock grazing and maintenance of existing rangeland developments would continue in the WSA, but would not significantly affect the wilderness values.

There are 14 sections (9,019 acres) of State land, 400 acres of split-estate land with State minerals, and 40 acres of private land scattered throughout the WSA (see Table 1). Provision of access to these lands would interfere with wilderness management, but access to these lands would likely not be required in the foreseeable future.

The portion of the WSA released for uses other than wilderness also could be managed as wilderness. However, protection of wilderness values in the nondesignated area would be more difficult than in the recommended area. Because the Paria Riverbed has traditionally been used as an access route, constant monitoring by BLM would be required to prevent the use of vehicles along the riverbed.

There are 8,640 acres of post-FLPMA leases in this part of the WSA, but these leases are subject to nonimpairment requirements and are not expected to be developed.

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) conducted a study of 59,270 acres in the WSA (USBM Open File Report 34-86, S. Brown and B.J. Hannigan, 34-86). In October 1988, the USBM studied an additional 35,372 acres in the WSA (USBM Mineral Land Assessment Open File Report 34-89, John. R. Thompson, 1989). The total acreage of these studies, 94,642 acres, is essentially the portion of the WSA that is recommended for wilderness designation. The reports concluded that the study area may contain oil and gas deposits because the stratigraphy of the study area closely resembles that of the Upper Valley oil field, and the structural setting is similar. Coal occurs nearby, but there are no coal-bearing formations near the surface inside the study area. There are no indications of uranium occurring near the surface in the study area. No other energy materials are present in the study area.

Sandstone and sand occur in the study area, but will probably never be exploited. No occurrences of metals were found on the surface in the study area, although copper, lead, and manganese were found outside the study area. Gypsum occurs just outside the northern part of the study area. Gypsum does not occur on the surface in the study area, but may be found at depth.

Impacts on Resources

The comparative impact table (Table 4) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the area as wilderness.

Local Social and Economic Considerations

Social and economic factors were not considered to be significant issues in the EIS.

Summary of WSA-Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for the ultimate management of the WSA.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 278 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received from 545 commenters including oral statements received at 17 public hearings on the EIS. Each letter or oral testimony was considered to be one input. Duplicate letters or oral statements by the same commenter were not counted as additional inputs or signatures. Each individual was credited with one signature or testimony regardless of the number of inputs.

In general, 514 commenters supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while 23 commenters were opposed. Eight commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS, but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

The majority of those commenting in favor of wilderness designation were from outside of Utah. Of particular concern was the need to protect wilderness values from development, preserve wilderness values for future generations, and add the diversity of Utah landforms to the NWPS.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness would restrict access by the general public, harm State and local economies, prohibit mineral exploration and development, and curtail livestock and wildlife management. Most of the commenters were from rural Utah.

Two Federal agencies, the FS and USBM commented on the Draft EIS. The FS stated that the Dixie National Forest concurs with the proposed wilderness in the Paria-Hackberry WSA. The USBM did not take a position regarding designation or nondesignation but commented that BLM has overstated the uranium potential of the Chinle and Moenave Formations. The USBM also commented that their investigations indicated that as of October 1984, there were no mining claims in the WSA.

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.

There are 14 sections (9,019 acres) of State land in the WSA and 400 acres of split-estate land with State owned

minerals. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the State of Utah expressed general opposition to wilderness designation but did not take a definite position regarding wilderness designation of the WSA. The State commented that the WSA is considered to rank high in both wilderness values and conflicts. The 59,670-acre partial alternative would mitigate many of the conflicts while retaining most of the high wilderness values. Conflicts that would not be mitigated include oil and gas potential and land treatment for livestock and wildlife. The 59,670-acre partial alternative would allow for further consideration of coal transportation corridors and the improvement of the Cottonwood Canyon road. The State comment supports the designation of No Mans Mesa as a Research Natural Area (RNA).

The Kane County Commission is opposed to wilderness designation of the Paria-Hackberry WSA and has endorsed the Consolidated Local Government Response to Wilderness that opposes wilderness designation of BLM lands in Utah. The Kane County Master Plan rejects wilderness as an exclusionary form of recreation that cannot be used by the average visitor. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the County noted that the WSA should not be designated as wilderness because it has been found to contain favorable conditions for recovery of oil and natural gas in the north and eastern sections; truck and rail corridors for transportation of Alton and Kaiparowits coal traverse the WSA and are important to the economic well-being of the region; and the No Mans Mesa has been protected as a RNA.

# PARIA HACKBERRY/PARIA-HACKBERRY 202 WSA

## Table 4
## Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

| Issue Topic | Alternatives | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Recommendation<br>Large Partial Wilderness<br>(95,042 Acres) | No Action/No Wilderness | All Wilderness<br>(136,222 Acres) | Small Partial Wilderness<br>(59,670 Acres) |
| Impacts on Wilderness Values | Wilderness values would be preserved in the designated area which is approximately 70 percent of the WSA. Because of vegetation treatments and rangeland developments, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost or indirectly reduced in quality on 814 acres of the WSA. Of this, only 300 acres would be directly lost. Vehicular use of 22 miles of ways and the 2.5 miles of the Paria riverbed in the nondesignated area would continue to be an annoyance that would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the WSA. Most special features would be preserved; however, continued ORV use in the nondesignated area would result in inadvertent or intentional disturbance of cultural and wildlife special features. | Wilderness values would not be protected by wilderness designation and loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on about 4,251 acres and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be indirectly reduced in quality on up to an additional 6,810 acres due to vegetation treatments, rangeland developments, and development of an utility right-of-way. Most special features including relict plant communities, perennial streams, special status animal and plant species, cultural values, and wildlife associated with wilderness would not be affected by development-related disturbance. Some Class A scenery would be disturbed. Special features that would be disturbed by continued ORV use are cultural values and sensitive wildlife species. Vehicular use of 33 miles of existing ways and about 25 miles of the Paria riverbed would continue to be an annoyance that would detract from solitude and primitive recreation opportunities in the WSA. | Wilderness designation would preserve wilderness values in the WSA. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly or indirectly reduced in quality on 34 acres. Only 14 acres would be directly disturbed. These impacts would be due to development of rangeland projects. Wilderness management criteria would be met. Special features including Class A scenery, relict plant species on No Man's Mesa, perennial streams, special status plant and animal species, wildlife commonly associated with wilderness, and cultural values would be preserved. | Wilderness values would be preserved in the designated area which is approximately 44 percent of the WSA. Because of vegetation treatments and rangeland developments, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost or indirectly reduced in quality on about 3,414 acres of the WSA. Of this, only 1,314 acres would involve direct loss. Vehicular use of 29.5 miles of ways and 2.5 miles of the Paria riverbed in the nondesignated area would continue to be an annoyance that would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in the WSA. Some special features would be preserved; however, continued ORV use in the nondesignated area would result in inadvertent or intentional disturbance of cultural and wildlife special features. |

# PARIA HACKBERRY/PARIA-HACKBERRY 202 WSA

## Table 4 (Continued)
## Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

| Issue Topic | Alternatives: Recommendation Large Partial Wilderness (95,042 Acres) | No Action/No Wilderness | All Wilderness (136,222 Acres) | Small Partial Wilderness (59,670 Acres) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Impacts on Soils | A slight (0.5 percent) increase in annual soil loss would be expected for a 2 to 3 year period followed by a reduction in annual soil loss as seedings were established following vegetation treatments. | There would be a 5.8 percent temporary increase in soil loss resulting from vegetation treatments, rangeland developments, and an utility corridor. The vegetation treatments would eventually reduce erosion rates in the WSA and soil loss would be less than at present. | Development projects which would reduce erosion rates from the WSA would not be allowed and erosion rates would remain at current levels. | A slight (1.8 percent) increase in annual soil loss would be expected for a 2 to 3 year period followed by a reduction in annual soil loss as seedings were established following vegetation treatments. |
| Impacts on Vegetation | Special status plant species would not be significantly affected. The 314 acres of projected surface disturbance would alter less than 1 percent of the acreage in the WSA. Therefore, vegetation types would not be significantly affected. | Special status plant species would not be significantly affected. The 4,251 acres of projected surface disturbance would affect about 11 percent of the pinyon-juniper woodland and sagebrush types in the WSA. | Vegetation types would be maintained and the five sensitive species in the WSA would receive additional protection. | Special status plant species would not be significantly affected. The 1,314 acres of projected surface disturbance would affect about 1 percent of the WSA. Therefore, vegetative types would not be significantly affected. |
| Impacts on Water Resources | This alternative would result in an insignificant (0.4 percent) and temporary (2 to 3 year) increase in sedimentation and TDS production due to 300 acres of vegetation treatments. | This alternative would result in a 5.8 percent temporary (2 to 3 years) increase in sedimentation and TDS due to vegetation treatments and rangeland developments. Over the long term, the water quality and uses would not be adversely affected. | Wilderness designation would not significantly alter present or future water quality or uses. | This alternative would result in a temporary (2 to 3 year) (1.8 percent) increase in sedimentation and TDS production due to 1,300 acres of vegetation treatments. |

# PARIA HACKBERRY/PARIA-HACKBERRY 202 WSA

## Table 4 (Continued)
## Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

| Issue Topic | Alternatives | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Recommendation<br>Large Partial Wilderness<br>(95,042 Acres) | No Action/No Wilderness | All Wilderness<br>(136,222 Acres) | Small Partial Wilderness<br>(59,670 Acres) |
| Impacts on Wildlife Habitat and Populations | With this alternative, mule deer and ferruginous hawk would benefit from the 300 acres of vegetation treatments. However, wildlife species associated with riparian zones would be adversely affected due to continued ORV use on the Paria riverbed. Wildlife would benefit from solitude provided by wilderness designation on 70 percent of the WSA. | Wildlife populations would improve due to increased water availability. Some wildlife species (mule deer and ferruginous hawk) would benefit from the vegetation treatments. However, wildlife species associated with riparian zones would continue to be disturbed by ORV use on the Paria riverbed. | Wilderness designation would negatively impact mule deer and ferruginous hawk habitat because 4,000 acres of vegetation treatments would not be allowed. Overall, wildlife would benefit from the ORV restrictions in the Paria riverbed and from solitude in the remainder of the area. | With this alternative, mule deer and ferruginous hawk would benefit from the 1,800 acres of vegetation treatments. However, wildlife associated with riparian zones could be adversely affected due to continued ORV use on the Paria riverbed. Wildlife would benefit from solitude provided by wilderness designation on 44 percent of the WSA. |
| Impacts on Livestock Management | Operating costs to 18 permittees would be slightly increased by restrictions on access to 11 miles of ways. Grazing levels would not be altered, but 1,700 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland chainings and seedings would be precluded. A potential increase of at least 170 AUMs would be foregone. | Livestock management and grazing practices would continue as at present. Rangeland developments and vegetation treatments would result in an increase of 200 AUMs and improved livestock distribution. | Wilderness designation would necessitate changes in livestock management and supervision and cause inconvenience with increased operating costs to the 46 permittees because of restrictions on access to 33 miles of ways. Development of additional forage (up to 200 AUMs) through vegetation treatments would be precluded. | Grazing levels would not be altered, but 1,000 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland chainings and seedings would be precluded. A potential increase of at least 100 AUMs would be foregone. Operating costs to 11 permittees would be slightly higher because of restrictions on access to 3.5 miles of ways. |

# PARIA HACKBERRY/PARIA-HACKBERRY 202 WSA

## Table 4 (Continued)
## Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

| Issue Topic | Alternatives: Recommendation Large Partial Wilderness (95,042 Acres) | No Action/No Wilderness | All Wilderness (136,222 Acres) | Small Partial Wilderness (59,670 Acres) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Impacts on Visual Resources | Visual quality would be reduced on less than 1 percent (314 acres) of the WSA due to vegetation treatments and rangeland developments. Most scenic values would be preserved. | In the foreseeable future, visual quality would be reduced on 3.2 percent (4,251 acres) of the WSA due to rangeland development, vegetation treatments and development of an utility corridor. | Wilderness designation would preserve visual resources because major surface disturbance would not be allowed. A slight reduction in visual quality would occur on 14 acres due to rangeland developments. | Visual quality would be reduced on about 1 percent (1,314 acres) of the WSA. Some scenic values would be preserved. |
| Impacts on Cultural Resources | Seven recorded sites in the designated wilderness portion of the WSA would be protected from vehicular activity. The remaining 34 sites would receive protection as discussed for the No Action/ No Wilderness Alternative. | Inadvertent loss or damage to archaeological sites may occur due to surface disturbance and continued ORV use. Intentional vandalism and artifact collection may increase due to increased activity and accessibility. Cultural resource management would continue without regard to wilderness management restrictions. | Surface disturbance would be minimal and benefits of protection would outweigh the threat of increased vandalism due to wilderness designation. Closure to ORV activity would protect sites from unintentional damage and generally decrease accessibility in the unit. Management of cultural resources may be restricted in scope and execution due to wilderness designation. | One recorded site would receive protection as a result of wilderness designation. The remaining 40 sites would receive impacts similar to those discussed for the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative. |
| Impacts on Recreation | Both primitive and vehicle-oriented recreation would increase. Primitive recreational values would be protected on the 95,042-acre designated area but would be reduced in those areas left open to ORV use including the Paria River bottom. Wild and scenic values on about 25 miles of the Paria River would not receive additional protection provided by wilderness designation and would continue to be subject to ORV use. | Both primitive and vehicle-oriented recreational use would increase. Primitive recreational values would be reduced in quality near the vegetation treatments, rangeland developments, and area of utility rights-of-way development. Primitive recreational opportunities would be reduced as vehicular use increases. About 25 miles of a wild and scenic river inventory segment would not receive additional protection provided by wilderness designation and would be subject to ORV use. | Primitive recreation values would benefit from a reduction in the likelihood for surface-disturbing activities, increasing management attention, and closure of the area to ORV use. The loss of vehicular opportunity would be considered significant because the riverbed is a historic and established travel route of interest to local users as well as tourists. Wild and scenic values on about 25 miles of the Paria River would receive additional protection provided by wilderness designation and would no longer be subject to ORV use. | Both primitive and vehicle-oriented recreation would increase. Primitive recreational values would be protected on the 59,670-acre designated wilderness area but would be reduced on the areas left open to ORV use including the Paria River bottom. Wild and scenic values on about 25 miles of the Paria River would not receive additional protection provided by wilderness designation and would continue to be subject to ORV use. |

## PARIA-HACKBERRY WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Appendix
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation [a]

| Legal Description (Prior to any Subdivision) | Total Acreage | Number of Owners (If Parcel has been subdivided) | Type of Ownership by Estate (Federal, State, Private, Other) (Surface Estate) | (Subsurface Estate) | Presently Proposed for Acquisition (Yes, No) | Preferred Method of Acquisition (Purchase, Exchange, Other) | Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Land Costs) | (Processing Costs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T. 39 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 32 | 640.00 | | State | State | No | Exchange | | $2,000 |
| T. 39 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 16 | 640.00 | | State | State | No | Exchange | | $2,000 |
| T. 39 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 36 | 640.00 | | State | State | No | Exchange | | $2,000 |
| T. 40 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 2 | 636.36 | | State | State | No | Exchange | | $2,000 |
| T. 40 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 16, E2, N2, NW4 | 400.00 | | Federal | State | No | Exchange | | $1,250 |
| T. 40 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 32 | 640.00 | | State | State | No | Exchange | | $2,000 |
| T. 40 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 2 | 653.60 | | State | State | No | Exchange | | $2,000 |
| T. 40 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 36 | 640.00 | | State | State | No | Exchange | | $2,000 |
| T. 41 S., R. 2 W., Sec. 16 | 630.16 | | State | State | No | Exchange | | $2,000 |

[a] The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a Federal appraised value of the land or mineral estate, but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring non-Federal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.